

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Industrial Medical Care at SAG Concern
in Schoenebeck/Elbe

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The SAG plant in Schönebeck/Eise manufactured crank-shafts, flange-shafts, cylinder rods and similar hardened steel parts for engines. Most of the parts were willingly shipped to the Soviet Union. Some were sent to East German shipbuilders for ship-motor construction. The plant labor force numbered about 600 men.

None of the items manufactured at the plant were replacement parts for Studebaker trucks. Employees were told that the Studebaker trucks were in the Soviet Union and had been converted from mobile radio transmitter transport to mobile battery charging equipment transport. The radio transmitting equipment had been removed from the trucks and had been replaced by portable electricity generators. These trucks were to be used allegedly on the Soviet kolхозs where electricity was not available.

25X1A b. [redacted] the T-34s had been tank-warfare specialists that such mobile electricity generators had been used during the war by the Germans to re-charge the batteries of stalled tanks. It was generally believed by the employees at the T-34 that the Soviet used the trucks in the same way.

The SAE plant had a dispensary for the use of the employees. It was headed by Dr. (Lina) Hildebrand who was in charge, and the staff included two male nurses and a woman administrative clerk. Dr. Hildebrand was available at the dispensary only between the hours from 12 to 1:30. One of the male nurses was on duty from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M., the other from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M.

Dr. Hildebrand was also plant safety inspector and had to discover and recommend elimination of accident hazards. Faulty exhaust equipment for removal of hydrochloric acid vapors or tri-chloroethylene vapors occasionally caused poisoning of employees. Hence the medical officer was responsible for calling attention to improper exhaust operation. Hildebrand also had a private practice and was not required to make house calls for employees.

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[illegible]

6. The hydrochloric acid was used to remove surface-scale from metal parts. The trichlorethylene (known as "tri" to the employees) was widely used to remove all fat coating from metal parts prior to their being subjected to the hardening process.
7. The dispensary rendered first aid to minor accident cases, to employees overcome by excessive inhalation of the HCl or trichlorethylene and to employees with minor headaches and colds. Serious accident cases were sent to a local hospital. No beds were available at the dispensary.
8. Drugs on hand were simple, and included aspirin, iodine and ichthyol. An inhalation apparatus was available for treating patients overcome by gas.

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10. Certain critical employees, e.g., welders, hardeners, lathe-operators (cast iron metal), grinders (wet and dry) and buffers, were required to report to the health office in Schoenebeck once every six months to undergo chest X-ray examination, to discover lung damage.

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11. Source had never heard of East Zone manufactured penicillin and had never obtained from the West Zone, [redacted]. All drugs were scarce and were regularly [redacted] 25X1C
12. Employees never received immunization treatment at the factory dispensary or at the local health office
13. Factory employees were eligible to go to sanatoriums for rest periods, at state expense. Source said that the employees had to bring money to these sanatoriums in order to purchase food locally, since the institution food was very poor and insufficient.

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* [redacted] Comment: Probably the former Preussische Berg-Hütten A.G., Schönebeck a.d. Elbe is meant. It is listed in reference material as SAG Maschinenbaufabrik "Dieselmotor", Schönebeck.

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